

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00779 111308Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-06 A-01 ABF-01 /019 W

----- 061630

R 080830Z NOV 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1385

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 779

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ABLD, IZ

SUBJECT: NEW OFFICE BUILDING FOR USINT

REF: BAGHDAD 240; 322; STATE 84799

1. CURRENT OFFICE/HOUSING SPACE SITUATION IN BAGHDAD DETERIORATING RAPIDLY. REASONS FOR PROBLEM INCLUDE GOI EXPROPRIATION OF DIPLOMATIC PROPERTY IN KARRADAT MERIAM AREA (BAGHDAD A-29) AND RAPID INCREASE IN FOREIGN BUSINESSES AND SIZE OF RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. TREND MARKED BY ACUTE SHORTAGE OF OFFICE SPACE, WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN CASE, AND RECENT DEARTH OF AVAILABLE HOUSES WHICH MANY EMBASSIES AND COMPANIES ARE COMPETING FOR. SHORTAGE IS ACCOMPANIED BY ASTOUNDING RISE IN LEASE COSTS, IN MANY CASES INVOLVING DOUBLING/TREBLING OF YEAR-AGO RATES.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE USINT CURRENTLY SEARCHING FOR NEW BUILDING LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMODATE OFFICE OF NEW COMMERCIAL OFFICER. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT TIME HAS COME FOR USINT TO RELOCATE. PRESENT QUARTERS ARE SMALL AND DINGY. CONSULAR APPLICANTS ARE OFTEN SEEN WAITING ON STAIRS OR IN ADJOINING OFFICES. RECENT INSPECTION TEAM WHICH VISITED BAGHDAD INDICATED SAME VIEW AND SUGGESTED THAT A NEW BUILDING SHOULD BE HIGH PRIORITY. IF MOVE IS NOT MADE SOON, CHANCES THAT WE WILL OBTAIN A GOOD BUILDING WILL BE SMALL, AND PRICES WILL BE HIGHER AT LATER DATE.

3. SINCE DILEMMA IS SO RECENT, USINT FY 75 BUDGET DID

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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00779 111308Z

NOT ANTICIPATE MAGNITUDE OF INCREASE NEEDED AND ESTIMATE

FOR OFFICE RENTAL WAS ONLY SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED  
DOLLARS. BASED ON RECENT SURVEY OF HOUSING COSTS,  
SUITABLE REPLACEMENT BUILDING WILL PROBABLY RUN AT  
LEAST FIVE THOUSAND DINARS (SEVENTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS).  
REQUEST DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON AMOUNT OF INCREASED FUNDS  
USINT CAN EXPECT TO THIS END. LOWRIE

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## Message Attributes

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**Film Number:** D740324-0304  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** NEW OFFICE BUILDING FOR USINT  
**TAGS:** AFSP, ABLD, IZ  
**To:** STATE  
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